

# Mecklenburg County Common Code Defects

## Residential Building

### Code Defects

- Fireblocking missing or not correctly installed in wall cavities of walls at the intersection of trayed or dropped ceiling. Some examples of this include:
- Fireblocking not located where it closes off the vertical stud cavity to the horizontal space above.
- Improperly installed fireblocking that leaves voids, etc., which open out of the stud cavity.
- Use of unapproved materials to create the actual fire blocking.

### Code Description

#### Section R602.8 Fireblocking required.

"Fireblocking shall be provided to cut off all concealed draft openings (both vertical and horizontal) and to form an effective fire barrier between stories, and between a top story and the roof space. Fireblocking shall be provided in wood-frame construction in the following locations:

- 1) In concealed spaces of stud walls and partitions, including furred spaces, at the ceiling and floor level and at 10 foot intervals both vertical and horizontal.
- 2) At all interconnections between concealed vertical and horizontal spaces such as soffits, drop ceilings and cove ceilings.
- 3) In concealed spaces between stair stringers at the top and bottom of the run;
- 4) At openings around vents, pipes, and ducts at ceiling and floor level, with an approved material to resist the free passage of flame and products of combustion.
- 5) All spaces between chimneys and floors and ceiling through which chimneys pass.
- 6) Fireblocking of cornices of a two-family dwelling is required at the line of dwelling unit separation.

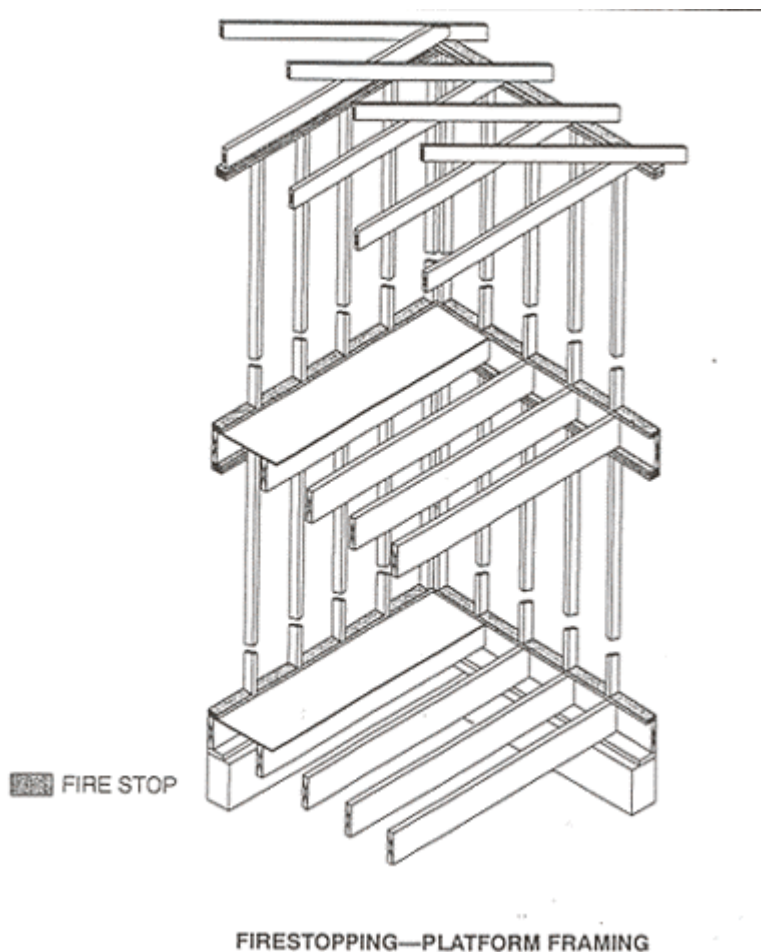
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## **Possible Options:**

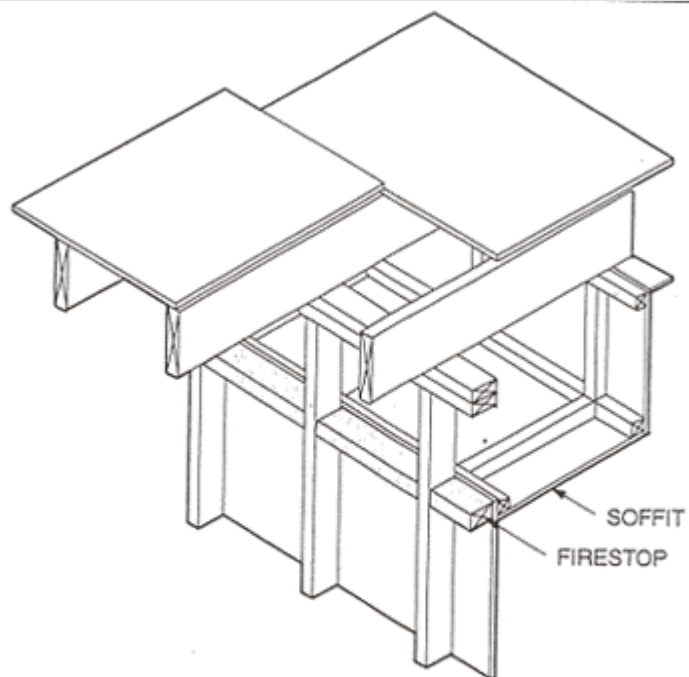
In this situation, the wall cavity should be fireblocked at the point where the ceiling connects to the wall. When fireblocked at this location, the vertical cavity formed by wall studs does not open into the horizontal cavity created between the ceiling and the floor system above. (Please view the attached drawings.)

**For the materials accepted for use as fireblocking, please see the N.C. State Residential Building Code, Section R602.8.1**

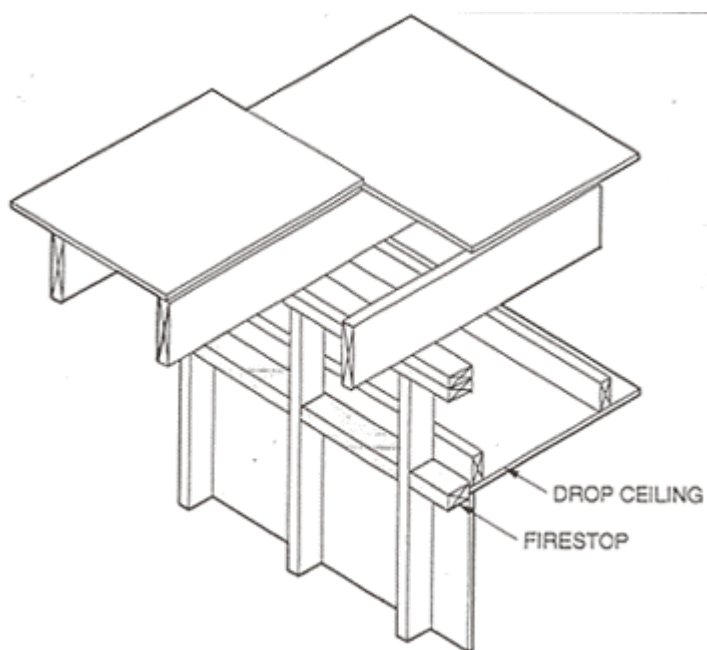
***Disclaimer: There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method to comply with the Code. You may want to investigate other options, or consult with a design professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.***



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**FIRESTOPPING—FURRED SOFFIT**



**FIRESTOPPING—DROPPED CEILING**

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## End Notes

North Carolina State Building Code

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